

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
synchronizing a data volume of a first node, a data volume of a second node, a data volume of a third node, and a data volume of a fourth node;
~~asynchronously, but not periodically,~~ replicating data to be written to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said first node to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said second node from said first node; and
writing said data to said data volume of said first node, wherein
said writing is performed after or in parallel with said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node;
 replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to a said data volume of [[a]] said third node, wherein~~
~~said replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node~~
~~comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said third node is performed using periodic replication at a first frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said second node from said second node to said data volume of said third node; and~~
 replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node to a said data volume of [[a]] said fourth node, wherein~~
~~said replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said third node~~
~~comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said fourth node is performed using periodic replication at a second frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said third node from said second node to said data volume of said fourth node; wherein~~
 said first frequency is higher different than said second frequency.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

synchronizing a data volume of a first node, a data volume of a second node, a data volume of a third node, a data volume of a fourth node, and a data volume of a fifth node;

~~asynchronously, but not periodically,~~ replicating data to be written to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said first node to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said second node from said first node; and

writing said data to said data volume of said first node, wherein

said writing is performed after or in parallel with said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node;

replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to a said~~ data volume of [[a]] said third node, wherein

said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node~~ comprises asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node said data volume of said third node is performed using asynchronous replication from said second node to said data volume of said third node; ~~and~~

replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node to a said~~ data volume of [[a]] said fourth node, wherein

said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node~~ comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said fourth node is performed using periodic replication at a first frequency, ~~said data to be written to said data volume of said third node from said~~ third node to said data volume of said fourth node; and

replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said fourth node to a said~~ data volume of [[a]] said fifth node, wherein

said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said fourth node~~ comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said fifth node is performed using periodic replication at a second frequency, ~~said data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node from said fourth~~ node to said data volume of said fifth node, wherein

said first frequency is ~~higher~~ different than said second frequency.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein,
~~said asynchronously, but not periodically, replicating data to be written to said data~~
~~volume of said first node comprises, asynchronously replicating data to be~~
~~written to a data volume of a primary node to a data volume of an~~
~~intermediate node; and~~
~~said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said~~
~~second node comprises, asynchronously replicating data to be written to said~~
~~data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node~~
said first node is a primary node, said second node is an intermediate node, and said
third node is a secondary node.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, ~~wherein said asynchronously~~
~~replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises~~
~~asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node~~
~~to a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes~~ further comprising:
replicating said data to a plurality of secondary nodes from said intermediate node.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein,
~~said asynchronously, but not periodically, replicating~~ said data to ~~be written to~~ said
data volume of said ~~first~~ second node comprises ~~asynchronously~~ replicating said
~~data to be written to said data volume of said first node~~ to said data volume of
said second node using a first data link coupled between said first node and said
second node;
~~said asynchronously replicating~~ said data to ~~be written to~~ said data volume of said
~~second~~ third node comprises ~~asynchronously~~ replicating said data to ~~be written~~
~~to said data volume of said second node~~ to said data volume of said third node
using a second data link coupled between said second node and said third node;
and

said first data link has a ~~higher~~ different bandwidth than said second data link.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

one or more first devices for synchronizing a data volume of a first node, a data volume of a second node, a data volume of a third node, and a data volume of a fourth node;

a ~~first~~ second device for ~~asynchronously, but not periodically,~~ replicating data to be written to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said first node to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said second node from said first node; and

a third device for writing said data to said data volume of said first node, wherein said third device is configured to perform said writing after said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node or is configured to perform said writing in parallel with said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node or both;

a ~~second~~ fourth device for replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to a~~ said data volume of [[a]] said third node, wherein said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said third node is performed using periodic replication~~ at a first frequency, ~~said data to be written to said data volume of said second node from said second node~~ to said data volume of said third node; and

a ~~third~~ fifth device for replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node to a~~ said data volume of [[a]] said fourth node, wherein said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said fourth node is performed using periodic replication~~ at a second frequency, ~~said data to be written to said data volume of said third node from said second node~~ to said data volume of said fourth node, wherein

said first frequency is ~~higher~~ different than said second frequency.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

one or more first devices for synchronizing a data volume of a first node, a data volume of a second node, a data volume of a third node, a data volume of a fourth node, and a data volume of a fifth node;

a ~~first~~ second device for ~~asynchronously, but not periodically,~~ replicating data to be written to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said first node to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said second node from said first node; and

a third device for writing said data to said data volume of said first node, wherein said third device is configured to perform said writing after said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node or is configured to perform said writing in parallel with said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node or both;

a ~~second~~ fourth device for replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to a~~ said data volume of [[a]] said third node, wherein said ~~second~~ fourth device ~~for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node~~ comprises a device for asynchronously replicating said data from said second node to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to~~ said data volume of said third node; and

a ~~third~~ fifth device for replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node to a~~ said data volume of [[a]] said fourth node, wherein said ~~third~~ fifth device ~~for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node~~ comprises a device for periodically replicating, at a first frequency, said data from said third node to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node to~~ said data volume of said fourth node; and

a ~~fourth~~ sixth device for replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said fourth node to a~~ said data volume of [[a]] said fifth node, wherein said ~~fourth~~ sixth device ~~for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node~~ comprises a device for periodically replicating, at a second frequency, said data from said fourth node to ~~be written to said~~

~~data volume of said fourth node to~~ said data volume of said fifth node,
 wherein
 said first frequency is **higher different** than said second frequency.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein,
~~said first device for asynchronously, but not periodically, replicating data to be
 written to said data volume of said first node comprises,
 a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of
 a primary node to a data volume of an intermediate node; and
 said second device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data
 volume of said second node comprises,
 a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data
 volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary
 node~~
said first node is a primary node, said second node is an intermediate node, and said
 third node is a secondary node.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein
 said fourth ~~device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data
 volume of said intermediate node~~ comprises a device for asynchronously
 replicating said data ~~to be written to said data volume of said intermediate
 node to~~ a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes from said
 intermediate node.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein,
 said ~~first second~~ device ~~for asynchronously, but not periodically, replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node~~ comprises a device for ~~asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said first node to~~ said data volume of said second node using a first data link coupled between said first node and said second node;
 said ~~fourth device means for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node~~ comprises a device for asynchronously replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to~~ said data volume of said third node using a second data link coupled between said second node and said third node; and
 said first data link has a ~~higher~~ different bandwidth than said second data link.

15. (Currently Amended) A set of machine-readable mediums collectively having a plurality of instructions executable by two or more machines, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said two or more machines to perform a method comprising:
synchronizing a data volume of a first node, a data volume of a second node, a data volume of a third node, and a data volume of a fourth node;
~~asynchronously, but not periodically, replicating data to be written to [[a]] said~~ data volume of [[a]] said first node to [[a]] said data volume of [[a]] said second node from said first node; and
writing said data to said data volume of said first node, wherein
said writing is performed after or in parallel with said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node;
 replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to a said~~ data volume of [[a]] said third node, wherein
 said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node~~ comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said third node is performed using periodic replication at a first frequency, ~~said data to~~

~~be written to said data volume of said second node from said second node~~ to said data volume of said third node; and
 replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node to a~~ said data volume of ~~[[a]]~~ said fourth node, wherein
 said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node~~ comprises periodically replicating, said data volume of said fourth node is performed using periodic replication at a second frequency, ~~said data to be written to said data volume of said third node to from~~ said third node to said data volume of said fourth node; wherein
 said first frequency is ~~higher~~ different than said second frequency.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A set of machine-readable mediums collectively having a plurality of instructions executable by two or more machines, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said two or more machines to perform a method comprising:

synchronizing a data volume of a first node, a data volume of a second node, a data volume of a third node, a data volume of a fourth node, and a data volume of a fifth node;

asynchronously, but not periodically, replicating data to be written to ~~[[a]]~~ said data volume of ~~[[a]]~~ said first node to ~~[[a]]~~ said data volume of ~~[[a]]~~ said second node from said first node; and

writing said data to said data volume of said first node, wherein

said writing is performed after or in parallel with said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node;

replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to a~~ said data volume of ~~[[a]]~~ said third node, wherein

said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node~~ comprises asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node said data volume of said third node is

performed using asynchronous replication from said second node to
 said data volume of said third node; ~~and~~
 replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node to a~~ said data
 volume of ~~[[a]]~~ said fourth node, wherein
 said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said third node~~
~~comprises periodically replicating,~~ said data volume of said fourth
node is performed using periodic replication at a first frequency, ~~said~~
~~data to be written to said data volume of said third node from said~~
third node to said data volume of said fourth node; and
 replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said fourth node to a~~ said
 data volume of ~~[[a]]~~ said fifth node, wherein
 said replicating said data to ~~be written to said data volume of said fourth node~~
~~comprises periodically replicating,~~ said data volume of said fifth node
is performed using periodic replication at a second frequency, ~~said data~~
~~to be written to said data volume of said fourth node from said fourth~~
node to said data volume of said fifth node, wherein
 said first frequency is ~~higher~~ different than said second frequency.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 17,
 wherein,
~~said asynchronously, but not periodically, replicating data to be written to said data~~
~~volume of said first node comprises,~~
~~replicating data to be written to a data volume of a primary node to a data~~
~~volume of an intermediate node; and~~
~~said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said~~
~~second node comprises,~~
~~asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said~~
~~intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node~~

said first node is a primary node, said second node is an intermediate node, and said third node is a secondary node.

20. (Currently Amended) The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 19, wherein ~~said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes~~ **said method further comprises replicating said data to a plurality of secondary nodes from said intermediate node.**

21. (Currently Amended) The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 17, wherein,
 said ~~asynchronously, but not periodically,~~ replicating **said** data to ~~be written to~~ said data volume of said **first second** node comprises ~~asynchronously~~ replicating **said** data ~~to be written to said data volume of said first node~~ to said data volume of said second node using a first data link coupled between said first node and said second node;
 said ~~asynchronously~~ replicating **said** data to ~~be written to~~ said data volume of said **second third** node comprises ~~asynchronously~~ replicating **said** data to ~~be written to said data volume of said second node to~~ said data volume of said third node using a second data link coupled between said second node and said third node;
 and
 said first data link has a ~~higher~~ **different** bandwidth than said second data link.

22. - 25 (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising intercepting a request to write said data, wherein
 said intercepting is performed after said synchronizing, and
 said request was sent by an application;

storing said data within a log of said first node, wherein
 said storing is performed after or in parallel with said intercepting;
notifying said application that said request has been completed, wherein
 said notifying is performed after or in parallel with said storing, and
 said replicating said data to said data volume of said second node is performed
 after or in parallel with said notifying.

28. (New) A method comprising:

synchronizing a data volume of a first node, a data volume of a second node, and a data
 volume of a third node;

intercepting a request to write data to said data volume of said first node, wherein
 said intercepting is performed after said synchronizing, and
 said request was sent by an application;

storing said data within a log of said first node;

notifying said application that said request has been completed, wherein
 said notifying is performed after or in parallel with said storing;

replicating said data to said data volume of said second node from said first node,
 wherein

 said replicating is performed after or in parallel with said notifying;

writing said data to said data volume of said first node;

replicating said data to said data volume of said third node from said second node,
 wherein

 said replicating said data to said data volume of said third is performed using
 periodic replication at a first frequency from said second node to said data
 volume of said third node.